

Frame House  
1530 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.  
Georgetown  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-109

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Washington Planning and Service Center  
1730 North Lynn Street  
Arlington, Virginia

## FRAME HOUSE

Location: 1530 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
(Note: Prior to 1881, Wisconsin Avenue was called High Street and had different address numbers. From 1881 to 1906, Wisconsin Avenue was known as 32nd Street and had present address numbers.)

Present Owner: Suter's Tavern, Incorporated et. al.

Present Use: Georgetown Club (private)

Statement of Significance: One of the few frame buildings remaining in the commercial district of Georgetown, this structure retains much of its original design.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: This property is located in Square 1255 in parts of lots 183 and 184 of Beatty and Hawkins addition to Georgetown. The following is an incomplete chain of title with references made to records in the Recorder of Deeds Office, District of Columbia.

1793 Deed October 8, 1792, recorded February 21, 1793  
in Liber A folio 193  
John Beall (of Georgetown) et ux Mary  
To  
Nichols Gibbs

1796 Deed December 16, 1796 recorded December 29, 1796  
in Liber B folio 611  
Nichols Gibbs (of Baltimore) et ux Mary  
To  
Andrew Kaldenbauch

1798 Deed March 31, 1798 recorded April 24, 1798  
in Liber C folio 407  
John Davidson and wife Maria  
To  
Andrew Kaldenbauch

Recites that Andrew Kaldenbauch and John Davidson both claim part of this lot and so Davidson has agreed to sell his claimed part to Kaldenbauch.

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- 1801 Deed June 6, 1801 recorded June 15, 1801 in  
Liber G folio 141  
John Davidson and wife Maria  
To  
Andrew Kaldenbauch (Kaltenbach) for Lot 183
- 1805 Deed in Trust October 24, 1805 recorded October 25,  
1805 in Liber N folio 315  
Andrew Kaldenbauch  
To  
Adam King
- 1806 Assignment April 15, 1806 recorded April 15, 1806 in  
Liber P folio 89  
Andrew Kaldenbauch  
To  
Robert Clarka
- 1807 Deed in trust June 22, 1807 recorded November 17,  
1807 in Liber S folio 300  
Mary Sharp (intanded wife of Andrew Kaldenbauch)  
To  
Adam King  
Andrew Kaldenbauch married Susanah Young instaad  
of Mary Sharp.
- 1808 Deed January 28, 1808 recorded May 4, 1808 in  
Liber T folio 323  
Daniel Carroll Brent, Marshall of D.C.  
To  
Thomas Dixon  
Sale on May 20, 1807 of land then in the occu-  
pancy of Robert Clarke. South part of Lot. 184.
- 1808 Deed January 28, 1808 recorded June 7, 1808 in  
Liber U folio 7  
Daniel Carroll Brent, Marshall of D.C.  
To  
John Peter  
North part of Lot 184
- 1808 Deed January 28, 1808 recorded June 9, 1808 in  
Liber U folio 28  
Daniel Carroll Brent, Marshall of D.C.  
To  
Daniel Renner  
For Lot 183
- 1809 Deed January 2, 1809 recorded April 18, 1809 in  
Liber V folio 383  
John Peter et ux Harriet  
To  
Daniel Renner  
Daniel Bussard tenants in common  
North part of lot 184

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- 1814 Deed September 7, 1813 recorded March 7, 1814 in  
Liber AG folio 196  
Daniel Bussard  
To  
Daniel Renner
- 1814 Deed August 13, 1814 recorded November 2, 1814 in  
Liber AH folio 262  
Thomas Dixon and wife Catherine  
To  
Daniel Renner  
part of lot 184
- 1818 Trust September 1, 1817 recorded February 24, 1818 in  
Liber AQ folio 89  
Daniel Renner  
To  
David English, Cashier of the Union Bank of George-  
town. Part of lot 183 and all of lot 184
- 1823 Deed October 14, 1823 recorded October 17, 1823 in  
Liber WB folio 209  
David English  
To  
President and Directors of the Union Bank of George  
town.
- 1849 Deed in trust June 11, 1849 recorded June 19, 1849 in  
Liber JAS 4 folio 381  
President and Directors of the Union Bank of Georgetown  
To  
Francis Dodge, Jr.
- 1849 Deed in trust June 11, 1849 recorded June 19, 1849 in  
Liber JAS 4 folio 388  
Francis Dodge, Jr., Trustee under Deed in Trust from  
the Union Bank of Georgetown.  
To  
John Marbury  
Francis Dodge  
Robert Read  
Richard Cruikshank
- 1856 Deed May 21, 1856 recorded October 27, 1856 in  
Liber JAS 123 folio 230  
John Marbury  
Robert Read  
Richard Cruikshank  
Trustees  
To  
Washington R. Hurdle
- 1856 Deed May 22, 1856 recorded October 27, 1856  
in Liber JAS 123 folio 232  
Washington R. Hurdle  
To  
James Hurdle  
part of lot 183

- 1857 Deed October 8, 1856 recorded March 20, 1857 in  
Liber JAS 130 folio 82  
John Marbury  
Robert Read  
Richard Cruikshank  
Trustees  
To  
Marinus Willet  
part of lot 183
- 1862 Deed December 26, 1862 recorded December 27, 1862 in  
Liber JAS 227 folio 209  
Mary Ann Hurdle et al  
To  
William E. Bell  
part of lot 183
- 1862 Deed December 26, 1862 recorded December 27, 1862 in  
Liber JAS 227 folio 211  
Washington R. Hurdle et ux Flora H.  
To  
William E. Bell  
part of lot 183
- 1863 Deed April 24, 1863 recorded April 27, 1863 in  
Liber NCT 2 folio 300  
William E. Bell et ux Catherine L.  
To  
Charles F. Robinson  
part of lot 183
- 1885 Deed May 23, 1885 recorded May 29, 1885 in  
Liber 1128 folio 16  
William E. Bell and wife Catherine L.  
To  
William E. Bell, Jr.  
parts of lots 183 and 184
- 1886 Deed November 2, 1886 recorded November 11, 1886 in  
Liber 1216 folio 323  
William E. Bell, Jr.  
To  
Trangott Rosenbusch  
Louis Charles Rosenbusch (son of Trangott)  
tenants in common  
parts of lots 183 and 184
- 1892 Deed June 30, 1892 recorded July 7, 1892 in  
Liber 1695 folio 440  
Louis Charles Rosenbusch and wife Elizabeth  
To  
Trangott Rosenbusch
- 1894 Deed March 19, 1894 recorded March 20, 1894 in  
Liber 1886 folio 398  
Trangott Rosenbusch and wife Amale  
To  
William C. Rosenbusch (son of Trangott)

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- 1943 Will of William C. Rosenbusch dated  
May 8, 1943 devised property to his children:  
Helan R. Whitehouse, nee Rosenbusch  
William T. Rosenbusch  
Loyd A. Rosenbusch
- 1946 Deed August 12, 1946 recorded September 3, 1946 in  
Liber 643 folio 424  
William T. Rosenbusch et al (heirs of Wm. C.)  
To  
Clara De Taranto
- 1946 Deed August 27, 1946 recorded September 3, 1946 in  
Liber 643 folio 425  
Clara De Taranto  
To  
Joseph M. Wise
- 1946 Deed October 22, 1946 recorded October 29, 1946 in  
Liber 647 folio 87  
Joseph M. Wise and wife  
To  
Alfred Arnold  
William C. Halpine
- 1951 Deed October 10, 1951 recorded October 12, 1951 in  
Liber 750 folio 588  
Alfred Arnold  
William C. Halpine  
To  
Frances C. Lauder
- 1959 Deed October 15, 1959 recorded October 23, 1959 in  
Liber 894 folio 39  
Frances C. Lauder  
To  
Eighth Realty Corporation et al
- 1965 Deed June 7, 1965 recorded June 22, 1965 in  
Liber 14 folio 257  
J. Francis Harris, III et al  
To  
Suter's Tavern Incorporated et al

2. Date of erection: Said to have been built in 1790 as a home. (Mr. Norman Larsen, interview July 20, 1966) However, deed of 1823 listed above mentions only a three-story brick house on site, whereas deed of 1849 listed above mentions "improvements," i.e., buildings (plural). Stylistic evidence suggests a date c. 1845.

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3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Brick wing erected about 1965. Modern landscaping and fencing.
6. Important old views: None.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Washington directories provide the following tenant information:

1914-1915	W. H. Shoemaker, oysters
1916	John K. Sawyer
1917	Elmore S. Staples
1918-1923	Walter H. Kerns
1924	George W. Dugan
1925-1928	Lewia Donaldson
1929-1930	Arthur Crismond
1930-1937	Vacant
1938	Mrs. Caroline D. Meggs, antiques
1939	Vacant
1940-1943	Norval J. Skee, upholsterer
1946-1956	Garden Gate Restaurant
1960-1965	Vacant
1966	Georgetown Club (Suter's Tavern Inc.)

Prepared by Dr. James Philip Noffsinger  
Architect  
National Park Service  
August 15, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This typically post-Federal structure of modest but well-proportioned design is a rare wooden survival of domestic character in a commercial environment.
2. Condition of fabric: Frame structure is in good condition; recently converted into a private club, its interior has been remodeled and a brick addition attached to the south.

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B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Frame structure, 23'-2" x 48'-2"; brick addition measures 11'-11" across Wisconsin Avenue (east) elevation. Two stories in height.
2. Foundations: Brick, stone; openings for early sub-grade windows have been filled in.
3. Wall construction: Frame construction; wooden sheathing of east facade is unusual form of flush siding with wide horizontal channels of rectangular-section cut. Rest of sheathing is standard clapboard.
4. Porches: Cast-iron stoop at entrance rests on cast-iron colonettes. Four of five risers have pierced rinceau pattern. Elaborate newel post terminates wrought and cast-iron railing.
5. Chimneys: None visible.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Original wooden door is 3'-10" wide, has four octagonal and two rectangular panels. Transom is now blocked by wooden panel. Pediment above doorway rests on two acanthus leaf consoles.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash are framed by wooden surrounds assembled with wooden tenons. Sills 2'-10" wide are visually supported by small consoles; lintels have small-angled dentils below projecting flat caps. Marks of exterior shutter pintles are visible; interior six-paneled shutters, two central panels louvered, may be original.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Low-pitched gable, tin covering.
  - b. Framing: Unknown.
  - c. Cornice, eaves: Projecting modillioned wooden cornice incorporates gutter; downspout may be original.
  - d. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

Interior has been altered in remodeling from home to restaurant to private dining club.



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D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The structure faces east on Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., between P and Q Streets, at the north end of Georgetown's commercial strip.
2. Enclosures: Modern wrought-iron fence along public sidewalk encloses small patio in front (east) of brick addition.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: Fronts on concrete public sidewalk.
5. Landscaping: None.

Prepared by Thomas R. Martinson  
Student Assistant Architect  
National Park Service  
August 5, 1966